Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) A system for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system, the first message-based system being one of a set of message-based systems within a workgroup, the first message-based system having a viewer, the system comprising:

(a) a thrask generating module generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one information item that is assigned a set of metadata, the metadata including relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of the group of a deadline, a reminder, a deferral and an obligation;

(b) a sorting module sorting a new information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion;

(c) a display module displaying one or more of the thrasks and at least one of the metadata of each of the information items in each of the displayed thrasks in the viewer; and

(d) an updating module updating the thrasks and at least one of the metadata based on at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress.

4.   (Original) The system of Claim 3 wherein the first message-based system has different capabilities than at least one in the set of message-based systems.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system, the first message-based system being one of a set of message-based systems within a shared workgroup, the message-based systems being

synchronized periodically with a shared workgroup component on a server, the first message-based system having a viewer, the method comprising the operations of:

(a) generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one information item that is assigned a set of ~~metadata~~metadata, the metadata relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of the group of a deadline, a reminder, a deferral and an obligation;

(b) sorting a new information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion;

(c) displaying one or more of the thrasks and at least one of the metadata of one of the information items in one of the displayed thrasks in the viewer; and

(d) providing a shared view of some of the thrasks to a subset of the message-based systems within the shared workgroup in response to a user selection of an option; and

(e) updating at least one of the metadata of one of the information items in one of the thrasks based on at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Currently Amended) A system for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system, the first message-based system being one of a set of message-based systems within a shared workgroup, the message-based system being synchronized periodically with a shared workgroup component on a server, the first message-based system having a viewer, the system comprising:

(a) a thrask generating module generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one information item that is assigned a set of ~~metadata~~metadata, the metadata relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of the group of a deadline, a reminder, a deferral and an obligation;

(b) a sorting module sorting a new information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion;

(c) a display module displaying one or more of the thrasks and at least one of the metadata of one of the information items in one of the displayed thrasks in the viewer; and

(d) a sharing module providing a shared view of some of the thrasks to a subset of the message-based systems within the shared workgroup in response to a user selection of an option; and

(e) an updating module updating at least one of the metadata of one of the information items in one of the thrasks based on at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress.

8.   (Canceled)